

News Release

Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES) at U of M Crookston Launches Web Site; Open House Slated for Tuesday, March 1, 2011, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Prairie Room

By Itollefs on Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Encouraging and assisting entrepreneurs and small businesses in northwest Minnesota is the focus of a new a Web site launched recently by the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES) located at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. A grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, CRES is designed to assist with the development and creation of entrepreneurial enterprises, the Web site showcases what the CRES has to offer. The Web address for the Center is [www.umccres.org](http://www.umccres.org).



An open house for CRES is planned for Tuesday, March 1, 2011, from 9 to 11 a.m. The open house will be held in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center, with an informational presentation on the services offered by CRES at 9:30 a.m.

The CRES serves eleven counties including, Beltrami, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake County, and Roseau. Its mission is to encourage entrepreneurship through educational leadership, applied research, and technical assistance. It will engage the students, faculty, and research facilities of the Crookston campus in order to stimulate the entrepreneurial culture and strengthen the economic vitality of northwest Minnesota.

The services offered by the CRES are based on the client's needs which include but are not limited to early-stage market analysis, product and service development management, lean evaluation, supply chain analysis, market extensions, sales forecasting, and other projects and services identified by regional companies.



Background for CRES

In August 2010, the U of M, Crookston Business Department received a congressionally-directed grant from the U.S. Department of Education for \$550,000 to start the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies. Writing the grant was a collaborative effort between several faculty members in the Business Department including Kevin Cooper and Rachel Lundbohm, who serve as director and associate director respectively. They were joined by Sue Brorson, professor and head of the Business Department and Associate Professor Bruce Brorson in the effort. Congressman Collin Peterson played an integral leadership role in this entrepreneurial initiative and was supported by both Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobachar.

Two seniors at the U of M, Crookston have played an important role in the Center's establishment. Janessa DeBoer and Lindsey Fouts, serve in the CRES as interns. While Fouts focuses on the accounting and database side of the work, DeBoer focused on developing content for the Web site, promotional materials, and creating a one-year marking plan for the Center.

The CRES is housed in Dowell Hall 117. For information, call 218-281-8595 ([cres@tc.umn.edu](mailto:cres@tc.umn.edu)), or visit [www.umccres.org](http://www.umccres.org).

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and more than 40 concentrations, including several online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,400 undergraduates from more than 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

In the photo, CRES Staff (l to r): Janessa DeBoer, Kevin Cooper, Lindsey Fouts, and Rachel Lundbohm.

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